try and submit their report to Department of Telecom.

O.B.-Number for Telephone Connections

625. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued a large number of O.B. numbers for telephone connections quite in advance in Idgah and Trans-Yamuna Telephone Exchange, New Delhi during the last one year till date;

(b) whether despite considerable lapse of time actual telephone connections have not been provided to a large number of consumers;

(c) whether Government have received many letters–representations from M.Ps. in this context;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the action being taken or proposed to be taken against officials responsible for the delay and by when these connections likely to be provided to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) A large number of OBs issued during the last year have been executed except some cases due to:

(i) Certain areas being technically not feasible where laying of underground cable is in progress.

(ii) Subscribers asking for change of address etc. after issue of OBs.

(c) Yes, Sir. The details are as under:

(i) IDGAH EXCHANGE: Out of 22 letters received from Hon'ble MPs, telephones have been provided in 16 cases. In remaining 6 cases where the area is technically not feasible; efforts are afoot to provide the telephones at the earliest.

(ii) TRANS YAMUNA EXCHANGE: No letters from Hon'ble MPs have been received.

(d) The delay in provision of new telephones has been due to some pockets/areas being technically not feasible; where laying of underground cable is in progress.

(e) the delay in provision of telephone being due to technical reasons; no official can be held responsible.

Provision of telephones will be in phased manner and telephones are likely to be provided progresssively within six months time in Idgah as well as Trans-Yamuna Areas.

Replacement of Franking Machines

626. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a directive to the centre users of the Franking Machines to discard the Existing Franking Repair Machines with effect from 1st February, 1998 and replace them by Electronic version of the machines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the details of the arangements, if any made for supply of new Electronic version of the machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASHTRA): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

The decision of the Government is to phase out mechanical and electro mechanical franking machines. The licences of those machines which have compelted 10 years life are not to be renewed after 31st January, 98 and for others the licences are to be renewed only upto the date or validity of licence already issued, whichever is later. This was done with a view to plugging the leakge of revenue to which the mechanical and electro mechanical franking machines were found to be

extremely vulnerable and the instances of misuse also galore. On the other hand, electronic machines offer maximum security to realisation of postal revenue.

(c) An Expert Group consisting of the representatives from the Department of Post, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and the Department of Electronics was constituted to determine the parameters for grant of approval to electronic franking machines for the use of the members of the public. On the basis of these parameters copy approval has already been given to eight different models of franking machines. There would be no dearth of these machines in the market.

ग्रामीण महिलाओं को पी०सी०ओ०/ आई०एस०डी०/एस०टी०डी० कनेक्शन दिया जाना

627. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यदाव:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने पी०सी०ओ०/ आई०एस०डी०/एस०टी०डी० कनेक्शनों के आवंटन में ग्रामीण महिलाओं को कोई प्राथमिकता दी है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) वर्ष 1997 के दौरान दरभंगा (बिहार) में ग्रामीण महिलाओं को कितने पी०सी०ओ० आबंटित किए गए हैं; और

(घ) दरभंगा (बिहार) में ऐसी महिलाओं की संख्या कितनी है जिन्होंने इसके लिए आवेदन किया है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कवीन्द्र पुरुकायस्थ): (क) और (ख) विभाग की मौजूदा नीति के तहत शिक्षित बेरोजगारों को एस०टी०डी० पी०सी०ओ० आबंटित किए जाते हैं बशर्ते कि तकनीकी रूप से ऐसा करना व्यवहार हो और इसी उम्मीदवार अन्य शर्तें पूरा करतसे हों। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए शैक्षिक अर्हता आठवीं और शहरी क्षेत्रों के लिए दसवीं कक्षा पास होना अनिवार्य ह। महिलाओं सहित निम्नलिखित श्रेणियों के व्यक्तियों को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है:—

1. दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तियों सहित विकलांग व्यक्ति।
2. अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के आवेदक।
3. भूतपूर्व सैनिक तथा युद्ध में शहीद हुए सैनिकों को विधवाएं।
4. दूरसंचार विभाग के सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी अथवा उनके आश्रित।
5. स्वतंत्रता सेवानियों के आश्रित।
6. धर्मार्थ संस्थाएं/अस्पताल।

(ग) 1997 के दौरान, दरभंगा में ग्रामीण महिलाओं को 156 पी०सी०ओ० आबंटित किए गए हैं।

(घ) इन कनेक्शनों के लिए दरभंगा (बिहार) में 322 ग्रामीण महिलाओं ने आवेदन किया है।

C.L.B. nod for additioal Directors in Dunlop

628. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "DCA seeks CLB nod for 9 additioal Directors in Dunlop" appeared in the Statesman, dated 29th April, 1998;

(b) whether any petition has been filed by Government; and

(c) major reasons compelling Government to seek CLB's intervention.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has moved a petition on 16.4.98 before the Company Law Board under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 for appointment of 9 directors on the Board of Directors of M/s. Dunlop India Limited.

(c) The Government had ordered an inspection of M/s. Dunlop India Limited under Section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 consequent upon some complaints received against working of the company from Dunlop Workers' Union. The Inspection Report *inter-alia* revealed violations of various Sections of the Companies Act, 1956. The report has also